



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

Mountain
Plains
Region

1244 Speer Boulevard
Denver, CO
80204-2581

Reply to
Attn of:

SP 05-14

JAN 25 2005

Subject:

Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) in Schools

To:

STATE AGENCY DIRECTORS - Colorado ED, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri ED,
(Special Nutrition Programs) Montana OPI, Nebraska, North Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming

Section 111 of the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-265) amended section 9(h) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act by requiring school food authorities (SFAs) to implement a food safety program. The Reauthorization Act requires that, during the preparation and service of meals, the SFA comply with a HACCP system established by the Secretary of Agriculture. The law requires compliance with this requirement by July 1, 2005.

We are aware that schools are eager to develop their implementation plans and would like to receive guidance as soon as possible. Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is working with staff from the FNS Food Safety Unit, the Food Safety Inspection Service, and the Food and Drug Administration to develop correct and practical HACCP guidance. They are also organizing a work group with State and local education officials, along with officials from agriculture and health agencies who have HACCP guidance that is in line with local SFA capabilities and needs.

We recognize that many SFAs participation in the school meal programs already follow food safety procedures and will do their best to implement HACCP in a timely fashion. Headquarters plans to have HACCP guidance available in spring 2005 and envision that SFAs will be in the process of implementing HACCP by the beginning of SY 2005-2006. State Agencies should inform their SFAs about the HACCP requirement and that FNS will be providing implementation guidance.

Darlene Sanchez
DARLENE SANCHEZ
Regional Director
Special Nutrition Programs